

Elizabethtown College 125th Anniversary
National Historic Preservation Trust This Place Matters Campaign & Campus Historic Building Survey
Based on the National Parks Service Historic American Building Survey
2024 Summer Creative Arts and Research Program SCARP
Ava Barton Class of 2027 and Shawn Gipe Class of 2027
Jean-Paul Benowitz, Director of Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships and Public Heritage Studies



A. C. Baugher (1893-1962)

Ella Cassel Booz Baugher (1898-1987)

In 1910-1919 many new instructors joined the Elizabethtown College teaching force, one of which was A.C. Baugher joining the science department.¹ At the time Charles Abba Baugher came to Elizabethtown in April of 1914, the campus was already established and had been for a while. A.C. Baugher was somewhat behind compared to other students, as he was a twenty-one-year-old freshman and was two weeks late for the classes that started on March 15. Though A.C. Baugher found himself behind in his education at several points in his life, he always caught back up and became more orderly through adversity.² Baugher's parents encouraged him to pursue an education growing up and he was also naturally gifted when it came to academics. A.C. Baugher's father, Aaron, had a love for books and was a schoolmaster in a small village on the Pennsylvania-Maryland border.



A.C. Baugher's mother was Lydia, a classy woman who valued education just as much as her husband. At the age of 5, Baugher's parents had enrolled him into a school. Charles had apparently loved writing at an early age and started the habit of writing his initials in reverse, A.C. Baugher, which can be found engraved into several outbuildings on the Baugher farm. Baugher is described as looking dignified, delicate, and handsome, with his hair swept upwards.

Charles Baugher faced some trouble with his education during his high school days, as he had to wake up at 4:30 am every morning and walk six miles

¹ Ralph Schlosser, *History of Elizabethtown College 1899 - 1970*. (Lebanon, PA: Sowers Printing Company, 1971), 74.; Emily Taylor et al., "A.C. Baugher," (Landmarks and Legends essay, Elizabethtown College, 2017) 1.

² Chet Williamson, *Uniting Work and Spirit: A Centennial History of Elizabethtown College* (Elizabethtown, PA, Elizabethtown College Press, 2001), 61.

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to his school. Adding on to his already tiring schedule, Baugher worked on the neighbor's farm after school until 9:30 pm. Despite these troubles, Baugher still managed to graduate with top honors in 1913 at Glennville high school, in addition to giving the commencement oration for his graduating class. After graduating Baugher taught for a short period, but decided he wanted a Christian education and thought it could be found at Elizabethtown College. Although tuition would be costly, Baugher was willing to work for his education, specifically the Christian one offered at Elizabethtown College. For the very first time, A.C. Baugher went up the steps of Alpha Hall to register for classes, seeing the view of the town with people dressed in plain garb walking around the campus pathways, and felt confident he had made the right choice after some initial hesitancy.³ A.C. Baugher had apparently said to himself, "He can who thinks he can," then walked through the doors after feeling reassured. Baugher's confidence was well founded, as he would be a champion of Elizabethtown College for almost half a century.⁴

In 1922, A.C. Baugher was part of the first graduating class to benefit from the accreditation of the College, allowing Baugher to earn his baccalaureate degree in June of that year with 12 other students. Baugher had also previously earned a non-standardized degree from Elizabethtown College when it wasn't yet accredited.⁵ The class of '22 numbered thirty-seven people and included those who had previously completed their work at Elizabethtown College but were not able to receive their A.B. degrees until 1922 when the College was accredited.⁶ Their yearbook was 142 pages long and filled with photographs, cartoons, and advertisements for businesses. Within the 142 pages included the College song, photos of the campus, and a cartoon with caricatures of notable Elizabethtown College faculty such as A.C. Baugher.⁷

In 1921, Elizabethtown College's Alma Mater song was created by Jennie Via and performed by a male quarter, with A.C. Baugher being a member.⁸ This quartet was organized in 1917, known as the Faculty Male Quartet. This quartet sang at nearly 20 churches each year and would also sing on Saturday evening masses, in addition to singing three more times at Sunday's service. The Faculty Male Quartet lasted until 1926 when one of its members left Elizabethtown College.⁹

In 1930 during the depression days of the college, salaries could not be paid. To raise funds and create sentiment for the college, ensuring it doesn't close, work was divided between A.C. Baugher and two others to take up this task.¹⁰ On February 15, 1941, the Board of Trustees elected A.C. Baugher, the dean of the college and President of Chemistry, to be the President of

³ Williamson, 62.

⁴ Ibid., 63.

⁵ Ibid., 92; Schlosser, 105.; Jennifer Llyod, "Baugher Student Center," (Architectural History of Elizabethtown College essay, Elizabethtown College, 2017) 1.

⁶ Williamson, 107.

⁷ Ibid., 107-108.

⁸ Ibid., 93; Schlosser, 112.

⁹ Ibid., 113.

¹⁰ Ibid., 124.

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Elizabethtown College.¹¹ After H.K. Ober, the President of the Board, died in 1939, the board was reorganized and enlarged, with A.C. Baugher being elected by Eastern Pennsylvania to join the board.¹²

The college catalogue from 1928-1941 recorded thirty-two professors being employed, one of which being Baugher. The addition of men like Baugher who held doctorates greatly improved the academic standard of Elizabethtown College.¹³ Baugher was a professor in the department of chemistry from 1919-1945.¹⁴

On January 3, 1930, A Faculty Club was started with the purpose of mentally and socially stimulating members of the faculty and “The Cultivation of Literary Taste.” A.C. Baugher was among the first officers elected in this club, serving as the Vice President.¹⁵

Around 1936 Elizabethtown College was attempting to gain membership in the Middle States Association and Dean A.C Baugher and President Schlosser attended annual meetings of the association, promoting Elizabethtown and hoping to be accepted. However, Etown would not be accepted until 1948.¹⁶

When the Student Alumni Auditorium-Gymnasium was finally finished in 1928, a dedicatory service was held in the gymnasium on May 25, 1929, with the invocation being led by Dean A. C. Baugher.¹⁷ When plans for a Gible Science Building were formed around 1926 and an architect was hired in 1927, a building committee was created, with A.C. Baugher part of it, to consummate the creation of the building.¹⁸

“Uncle Sam” aka Samuel Hertzler passed away at the age of eighty-three on March 7, 1936, with a memorial service held at Elizabethtown’s Church of the Brethren and the addresses given by three men, including A.C. Baugher.¹⁹

With Schlosser’s resignation on January 1, 1941, the Board of Trustees looked to Dean A. C. Baugher as the next potential President of Elizabethtown College, to which Baugher accepted the position on March 15, 1941, and his term began on September 1, 1941. Baugher had been a Professor of Chemistry since 1922 and the Dean of the College from 1928-1941, meaning he was more than qualified for the presidency. Baugher had also earned his doctorate in Education at New York University. The terms for Baugher accepting the position were listed:

1. “A committee consisting of the President of the College, the Treasurer of the College, and one or two members from the Board of Trustees should be responsible for hiring the Faculty.
2. A definite Faculty program should be mapped out extending over possibly two or three years.

¹¹ Ibid., 126.

¹² Ibid., 128.

¹³ Ibid., 129.

¹⁴ Ibid., 130.

¹⁵ Ibid., 136.

¹⁶ Ibid., 139.

¹⁷ Ibid., 153.

¹⁸ Ibid., 154.

¹⁹ Ibid., 173.

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3. The Board should approve the employment of a full-time student solicitor to begin work not later than June 1, 1941.
4. Immediate steps should be taken for a program of student solicitation under the direction of the new administration. “²⁰

A. C. Baugher’s conditions were accepted by the Board of Trustees on March 15, 1941, and on January 1, 1941, The Alumni Council sent the following resolution to the Board of Trustees:

1. ”That we heartily approve the action of the Board of Trustees in choosing A. C. Baugher to pilot our beloved Alma Mater.
2. That we pledge President Baugher our loyalty, devotion and support.
3. That we pledge President Baugher our confidence in his sincere efforts to put across a high caliber program at Elizabethtown College.

H. J. Frysinger,
Chairman
L. D. Rose, Secretary”

As per requested by the Alumni Association, an inaugural program and committee was created for President Baugher. On April 18, 1942, the Chairman of the committee reported that Baugher’s inauguration services and induction into office would take place on May 30, 1942.²¹

At the start of President Baugher’s administration the Board of Trustees had a total of fourteen members.²² Around 1955, Elizabethtown hoped to petition the Court of Common pleas for Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in order to increase the amount of trustees on the Board from twelve to twenty-four. The amendment of the charter of Elizabethtown College was proposed and “IN WITNESS WHEREOF, A. C. Baugher, President of Elizabethtown College, has hereunto set his hand and affixed the seal of said corporation, duly attested by Martha Martin, Secretary, this 11th day of March A.D. 1943.” From there, it was ordered that the amendment of Elizabethtown College’s charter be approved.²³

President Baugher’s administration was marked by growth in academic standard of the College For one, the number of professors with doctorates increased from seven to twelve and the amount with master’s degrees from five to thirty-five. Additionally, the instructional staff of the College went from twenty-one to fifty-eight.²⁴ Though, the most significant increase was found in Business education, with forty courses added and 8 instructors spread across subjects such as accounting, business administration, business education, and secretarial science. Additionally, the English department grew under Baugher, in which the number of courses increased from ten to

²⁰ Ibid., 175.

²¹ Ibid., 176.

²² Ibid., 177.

²³ Ibid., 179-180.

²⁴ Ibid., 181.

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twenty-four and a total of eight instructor.²⁵ A vacant position in the Department of Chemistry was present when Baugher assumed his presidency, and an offer was made to Oscar F. Stambaugh to take it.²⁶ On October 31, 1945, J. Z. Herr corresponded with A.C Baugher to resign, to which the Board of Trustees accepted on November 2, 1945. The letter to Baugher read, "Dear Brother Baugher: I called at your office this morning at eleven o'clock to turn in my keys to the office, the office vault, and the bank vault respectively. Also a list of work in process which should be attended to. I am severing my connections with the College as per my resignation of May 20, 1945, which was effective September 1, 1945, but I gladly served the two extra months of grace to November 1, 1945, until the organization for the present year was completed. My withdrawal at this time is in accordance with our understanding of a few days ago.

Respectfully yours,
J. Z. Herr"²⁷

Additionally, on May 5, 1948, President Baugher received a letter from Frank H Bowles which read, "My dear President Baugher: I am glad to tell you that at its recent meeting the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education voted to accredit Elizabeth-town College. Dr. Glatfelter's report includes a good deal of material which will be of very real interest to the College, including either directly or through implication a number of suggestions for improvement. I hope that you will give careful attention to these suggestions, and when you have done so, I can assure you that I shall be glad to discuss the report and its findings with you. I should add that the Commission hopes that the College may be able to proceed with its library construction in the fairly near future.

Sincerely yours,
Frank H. Bowles, Chairman"

From this, Elizabethtown finally received accreditation and was given the power to grant degrees on December 19, 1921.²⁸

President Baugher received a letter once again on May 7, 1959, from Dr. Ewald B. Nyquist, Chairman of the Commission on Accreditation of Institutions of Higher Education: "We have decided to reaffirm the accreditation of Elizabethtown College as a member of the Middle States Association. ... Elizabethtown College is a stronger institution than it was in 1948, and hence we were delighted to renew Elizabethtown's accreditation. It indeed has fulfilled its earlier promise of progress. Let me conclude by congratulating you upon this decision which now reaffirms the accreditation of Elizabethtown College and its status with its own peers in the Association."²⁹

²⁵ Ibid., 182.

²⁶ Ibid., 185.

²⁷ Ibid., 190.

²⁸ Ibid., 193.

²⁹ Ibid., 193-194.

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During the academic procession for the Zug Memorial Library, President Baugher oversaw the Conferring of Honorary degree.³⁰ On January 16, 1954, President Baugher met with the Board of Trustees and recommended building a women's dormitory, which would come to be known as Myer Hall, and would hold one hundred and fifty women. For the construction costs, it was clear that a loan of \$582,000 would be needed from the Federal Housing Agency, which was granted on July 15, 1955.³¹ The dedication of Myer Hall was held on May 11, 1957, in which President Baugher discussed the Act of dedication³²



Additionally, after learning that the property of Mrs. Mary Hale Chase was for sale, which was a colonial brick structure with twenty-five rooms, A. C. Baugher recommended to the Board of Trustees that it be purchased. Baugher believed this property could be used for housing students, for Faculty apartments, a conference center, or an experimental school in special education. Ultimately, this facility would be used for educational purposes and named "Cameron Estate, Donegal campus."³³



In 1953 at the forty-eighth Annual Meeting of the Association, Alumni Chairs were beautiful armchairs with a black lacquer finish were presented to those who made great contributions to Elizabethtown College. Of course, A. C. Baugher was presented with one of these chairs for his service to the College.³⁴

Upon being urged by President Baugher, the Board of Trustees responded his request for a financial program to be created to provide funding for more buildings due to the growing size of the student body within Elizabethtown College. On January 16, 1954, a fund-raising agency called Marts and Lundy was employed by the College to determine the feasibility of a funding campaign. With the advice of Marts and Lundy, the Board of Trustees decided to have the agency start planning a ten-year development program that would run from July 1, 1954, to April 30, 1965.³⁵ By August 31, 1958, it was reported that the total amount raised from the Development program so far was \$666,000. On the same day the Board of Trustees appointed six people to serve as advisors on the Development Program, one of them being A. C. Baugher, Ex-officio of the College.³⁶

³⁰ Ibid., 196.

³¹ Ibid., 198.

³² Ibid., 198.

³³ Ibid., 200.

³⁴ Ibid., 203.

³⁵ Ibid., 211.

³⁶ Ibid., 212.

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In an article on the “Organization and Program of the Harrisburg Area College Center,” President Baugher described a plan to create the Harrisburg Area College Center: “In 1951 Lebanon Valley College and Elizabethtown College became convinced that they could bring to the Harrisburg area improved higher education to more students if the two institutions would pool their strength and so co-coordinate their efforts. In pursuit of this conviction the two colleges agreed to form a simple administrative set-up to achieve this goal. This was designed as the Harrisburg Area College Center.”³⁷ The plan turned out to be fortuitous, as the Harrisburg Area College for Higher Education (HACHE) was incorporated in 1958, with one of the first officers being A.C. Baugher as Chairman to the Board of Directors.³⁸ In the news section within the *Etownian* of January 10, 1959, President Baugher spoke on The Center: “It is my firm conviction that though this co-operative effort the unique individual strength of the collaborating institutions can be made available to the citizens of the Harrisburg area. The wide range of courses of instruction, which these institutions can bring to the classrooms of the Center, could not be matched by any single institution in the entire Commonwealth.”³⁹

According to Baugher’s report to the Board of Trustees, money raised by churches for the colleges only amounted to about \$3554, which is less than \$.50 donated per member of the churches. The amount increased over the years, but Elizabethtown College still mainly relied upon tuition fees, contributions from business firms, and churches. For these reasons, the Board of Trustees approved of a recommendation from President Baugher on September 29, 1951.⁴⁰ Baugher’s recommendation asserted “If the church is to continue the avowed exponent of Christianity in education, then the church must increase her support and since the Church of the Brethren of Eastern and Southern Pennsylvania own Elizabethtown College, it is of primary importance that these two districts give larger support to the College as their program of the church in Private education. The goal of \$12,000 for Eastern Pennsylvania and \$6,000 for Southern Pennsylvania should be the minimum. The board should make a special effort to have the districts achieve this goal.”⁴¹ Over the years Bible Institutes were held to increase favorability of the College and build relationships with the churches, which assisted in receiving funding from the churches. Eventually The Men’s Work Organization of the District of Eastern Pennsylvania thought of creating a project to endow a Chair of Bible at Elizabethtown College with a donation of \$5,000 to kickstart the project. Due to these considerations and Baugher’s push for church assistance, the college increasingly receives support from the church each year.

A committee for investigating the retirement plans of the Teacher’s Insurance and Annuity Association, comprised of Baugher and two others, was appointed on November 8, 1946, by the executive committee of the Board of Trustees. The committee’s reporting to the Board of Trustees was favorable, to which it was adopted on January 1, 1947.⁴²

³⁷ Ibid., 213.

³⁸ Ibid., 214.

³⁹ Ibid., 215.

⁴⁰ Ibid., 216.

⁴¹ Ibid., 216-217.

⁴² Ibid., 217.

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On April 25, 1960, President Baugher made a statement to the Board of Trustees listing Elizabethtown's accomplishments and progression during his twenty-year administration, in addition to announcing his retirement as Elizabethtown College's President. Baugher then publicly announced his retirement on May 30, 1960, planning to retire on June 30, 1961. Two days before publicly announcing his retirement, Baugher wrote a letter to the Board of Trustees: "Dear Colleagues: After having been affiliated with Elizabethtown College for more than forty-five years as student, teacher, dean, trustee, and as President, I wish to officially inform the Board that I plan to retire from the office of President at the end of the next academic year on June 30, 1961. It is my studied opinion that in terms of the great financial resources of both the church and community, the high and rapidly growing population in the area, and the generally advantageous geographic location of Elizabethtown College, the possibility of future growth looks bright. It is my firm conviction that these favorable factors coupled with a creative imagination and a dynamic program, will make it possible for Elizabethtown College to continue to grow into almost any size institution which those who guide its future may think desirable. The future calls for a creative imagination, alert professional leadership and guidance for the maintenance and expansion of the distinctive type of education for which Elizabethtown College has become known. It is my earnest hope born out of many years of study and prayer and service to Elizabethtown College that the Board in the pursuit of their responsibility to find a President, will carefully study the needs and the unusual opportunities for Elizabethtown College during the immediate years ahead, and that they will look with prophetic fearlessness into the challenging coming decades. It is my fervent prayer that the Board may find the individual whose qualifications and thorough training and experience and dedication will match the opportunities for a greater Elizabethtown College in the field of Christian higher education.

A. C. Baugher"⁴³

A resolution was written in response to Baugher's resignation by the Board of Trustees on May 28, 1960. A meeting by the Executive Committee of the Board was held on September 22, 1960, and the minutes of the meeting read: "A paper prepared by President A. C. Baugher setting forth his views on his employment after retirement as a president was presented. After discussion the following actions were approved with respect to his status after July 1, 1961: 1. That he be designated President Emeritus and that he be considered a special representative of the College in the area of development and fund raising. 2. That he serve under the President of the College and the Director of Development. 3. That his services be less than full time and that his salary be predicated on a part-time program. 4. That his employment be on a year by year basis. 5. That he be authorized to prepare a manuscript on the history of the College, without commitment as to its publication, and that these materials be considered primarily as source materials for a later

⁴³ Ibid., 219.

fuller history of the College. Item 2 was revised in a later action by the Board of Trustees, instead stating, “That the President Emeritus devote the major portion of his time to fund raising under the direction of the President of the College and co-ordinate his efforts with the Development Program of the College.”⁴⁴

Additionally, Baugher’s wish for the Board of Trustees to carefully and responsibly select a new President came true on May 30, 1960, as the Board outlined various qualifications an Elizabethtown College President should have and what type of person they should be: “1. A man of unquestionable character. 2. A churchman with a vigorous philosophy of life. 3. A family man. 4. A man of reasonably mature years and in good health. 5. A man of academic training and scholarly interests. 6. A man with some understanding of Christian Education. 7. A man with educational background and experience. 8. A man with administrative experience. 9. A man with a creative imagination. 10. A man who knows men and can judge qualifications of applicants. 11. A man with a democratic spirit. 12. A man preferably not local, who knows the history of the institution. 13. A man of pleasing platform experience. 14. A man who understands the meaning of public relations. 15. A man who appreciates the value and the necessity of money.”⁴⁵

Due to the great changes in academic standard President Baugher made during his administration, the Board of Trustees took it upon themselves to appoint a committee in order to “Plan for proper ceremonies in connection with the retirement of President Baugher” and voted on October 15, 1960, “to arrange for a proper honorarium for the retiring President and to co-operate with the ceremony planning committee.” Once again honoring Baugher’s twenty years of service by adopting the following Committee report: “By the year ending June 30, 1961, President A. C. Baugher will then have given the College more than forty-five years of distinguished service, the last twenty of which he will have served as President of the College. The Board appreciates the many years of distinguished service, the last twenty of which he will have served as President of the College. The Board appreciates the many years of distinguished service which President Baugher has rendered the College as Instructor, Dean, Trustee, and President. During his term of office as President of the College, the institution has made some very significant strides forward in its growth status, and development. President Baugher was instrumental in obtaining accreditation for the College in the Middle States Association. This has been a significant factor in building up the College's influence and prestige. Other areas which he has rendered an outstanding service are in the fields of fund raising and enlarging the physical facilities of the College by the addition of a modern library, the erection of two very attractive dormitories, and the enlargement of the Gible Building. Another Major Project in which President Baugher has given distinguished leadership is in the creation and development of the Harrisburg Area Center for Higher Education in which Pennsylvania State University, Temple University, the University of Pennsylvania, Lebanon Valley College, and Elizabethtown College co-operate in bringing

⁴⁴ Ibid., 220.

⁴⁵ Ibid., 220-221.

college opportunities to the Harrisburg Area. The Board wishes for President and Mrs. Baugher many more years of continued health and happiness and hopes that their retirement from heavy administrative duties and responsibilities will be enjoyed by them in the full measure which they so richly deserve for the years of dedicated service and sacrifice which they have given to Elizabethtown College.”⁴⁶

A testimonial dinner was arranged by the Board of Trustees at the Penn Harris Hotel in Harrisburg on May 1, 1961, to recognize and celebrate A.C. Baugher's services as President of Elizabethtown College from 1941-1961. Three hundred-plus people attended the testimonial dinner and many sang high praises of President Baugher during it. Additionally, the toastmaster of the event H. E. Raffensperger made an announcement for the creation of the A. C. Baugher Lectureship in Science at Elizabethtown College and Baugher also received a lump sum of money on behalf of Elizabethtown College's Board of Trustees. Additionally, President Baugher was presented with a large, framed photo of himself from the Student Association of Elizabethtown College on May 6, 1961. The final celebratory event of A.C. Baugher took form in the Alumni Day Honors Luncheon on May 27, 1961, and both A.C. Baugher and his wife were presented with Alumni chairs by the President of the Alumni Association, Clifford B. Huffman.⁴⁷

While President Baugher erected many buildings at Elizabethtown College during his twenty-year administration, he was still thinking about increasing the amount of facilities on campus in the last two years of his Presidency. He was specifically concerned with the construction of a Women's Dormitory, a Student Union Building and a Classroom Building. The Housing and Home Finance Agency for loans considered the potential for a Myer Residence for Women and Ober Residence for Men, leading President Baugher to recommend the Board request for the loans. The construction of such facilities would be monumental in the future growth of the College, however, despite applications for all the recommended buildings by Baugher, the second women's dormitory and the Student Center was not constructed until 1962, and the Classroom Building until 1967.⁴⁸

Information from *Uniting Work and Spirit*:

A.C. Baugher 1910-1920

On a Saturday night in November, A.C. Baugher and a student named John Bechtel were returning to Elizabethtown College from York, in which they were bringing several chickens to add to the College's "hennerly." When putting the chickens into their new home around 11:15 pm, they started to make a commotion, to which student Ammon King Ziegler was alerted and was under the assumption someone was trying to steal the College's chickens. In response, Ziegler

⁴⁶ Ibid., 221-222.

⁴⁷ Ibid., 222.

⁴⁸ Ibid., 223.; Jean-Paul Benowitz, Peter J. DePuydt, "Elizabethtown College" (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2014), 22.

grabbed his 12-gauge shotgun, ran outside, and fired a warning shot in the air and then second one above A.C. Baugher's head, which marks the only time a student ever shot at a professor and future president of the college. One of the shot gun shell casings was put on display in a glass case "in room 304, Fairview Apartments, where it may be viewed by those interested upon payment of the admission fee of one pin." Ziegler faced no punishment for this offense other than being written about in a satirical *Our College Times* article, in which Ziegler was deemed a hero for "defending" the college.⁴⁹

During the 1931-1932 school year, A.C. Baugher, as Dean of Elizabethtown College, taught General Chemistry, Qualitative and Qualitative Analysis, Organic Chemistry, Physical Chemistry, and Industrial Chemistry.⁵⁰ During the thirties, both A.C. Baugher and President Schlosser started wearing their religious garbs dependent on the situation rather than all the time. A pastor and former student of Elizabethtown College, Nevin H. Zuck, stated, "They would start out at Elizabethtown not wearing a [plain] vest and stop along the road and put it on. That's the story... and I think it was probably true." A Brethren Minister and former Elizabethtown College student, Harold Z. Bomberger, also commented on this change, and cited a time A.C. Baugher went to a Brethren Congregation in Annville to solicit donations for Elizabethtown College: "Oh, he was plain as midnight, you know, plain garb and all that. The next day I saw him with a tie. And everybody knew..."⁵¹

Elizabethtown College's relationship with the church was somewhat shaky and A.C. Baugher stated in a speech at the Board of Christian Education of the Church of the Brethren in Washington D.C.: "There has been a weakening of the bond of cooperative effort in higher education and the related churches. The primary reason for this definite change is found in the problem of financial support for Colleges. It is almost a truism, that financial support carries with it the right to control; and stated conversely, the right to control implies responsibility to support."⁵² According to Baugher, in a time when the College necessitated funds from the churches, the donations were much less than was required.⁵³

At the time of President Schlosser's resignation in January of 1941, A.C. Baugher had been Dean of instruction since 1928 and part of the college for ¼ a century. Baugher earned his B. S. degree in chemistry from Franklin and Marshall College, his Master's degree in chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania, his Ph.D. from New York University, and had various church credentials as well. Baugher was offered to be President of Elizabethtown College on February 15 and agreed to accept the offer on the conditions that faculty would now be selected by a committee of the president, treasurer and one to two members from the Board of Trustees. Additionally,

⁴⁹ Williamson, 115.

⁵⁰ Ibid., 130.

⁵¹ Ibid., 134.

⁵² Ibid., 137-138.

⁵³ Ibid., 138.

Baughner necessitated a three-year program for faculty to be mapped out. Baughner also believed the president shouldn't be the one searching for potential students, rather, the important job should be handled by a full-time student solicitor.⁵⁴ The Board of Trustees agreed to all the requests, and a graduate student named Galen C. Kilhefner was appointed the "Field Representative" to solicit potential students for the 1941-42 school year. During the 1940's, Baughner was very focused on increasing the academic growth of the College and earning accreditation for the College through the Middle States Association. Through 1941-1951, the faculty grew from twenty-one to thirty members, the number of doctorates stayed the same, and the number of professors with masters degrees increased from five to thirteen. By the end of Baughner's tenure, the College had a faculty of fifty-eight, thirty-five of which had master's degrees, and thirteen with doctorates. The most problematic issue during this time was the College's financial costs. For example, after President Schlosser's resignation, he went back to teaching as an English professor and there was only enough budget for there to be one, so Rebekah Shaeffer, the current professor and dean of women and English professor, unfortunately had to be dismissed by A.C. Baughner.⁵⁵

In the start of the 1946-47 school year there was over 300 students enrolled, 145 of them being veterans. Additionally, Elizabethtown College campus received two new buildings, the North and South Hall, which were erected through government funding. The government donated a third building too, which was originally planned as a library but became a business center with five classrooms and two offices. Due to the growth of the student population, architecture, financial status of the College, and teaching faculty, Baughner felt it was finally time to start preparing for accreditation. A.C. Baughner started by attending the Annual meeting of the Middle States Association in November of 1944. At the meeting Baughner talked to the Secretary of the Association, Dr. Karl Miller, and informed him of how the College had been strengthened financially and academically, to which he recommended Baughner file an application for accreditation.⁵⁶ In June of 1945, after several months of hard work, Baughner submitted a 150-page report to the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education. However, Elizabethtown College's application was set aside (about a yearlong) when several weak areas were found in the program after Dr. Roy Deferrari visited the College. During the year that Elizabethtown College was tabled from the Association, Baughner worked to strengthen the faculty, finances, and student body. Thanks to A.C. Baughner's efforts, in March of 1948, the College was inspected by a five-person committee headed by Dr. M. E. Gladfelter (Provost of Temple University) and reported the findings to the Middle States Association. Finally, on May 7 of that year, Baughner announced in the chapel that Elizabethtown College had finally achieved accreditation and full academic standing among the leading colleges of the U.S., which was met with much applause. Just two

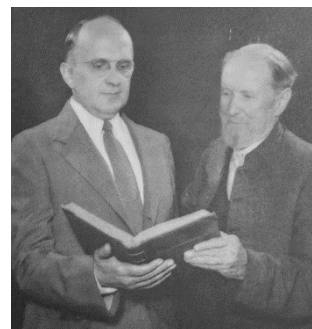
⁵⁴ Ibid., 152.

⁵⁵ Ibid., 153.

⁵⁶ Ibid., 164.

months later, the College became a full member of the American Council of Education and was approved by the New York State Department of Education in March of 1949.⁵⁷

On November 20, 1948, President Baugher gave G.N. Falkenstein (age 90) the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity to honor his efforts in the founding of Elizabethtown College at the closing session of the forty-ninth annual Bible Institute. In the closing session Baugher stated, "In recognition of his pioneer work in education and in the pastoral work of the church and in appreciation of his untiring services in founding Elizabethtown College, in recognition of his achievements in writing and preaching, he is indeed a most worthy recipient of the degree."⁵⁸



In 1951 Elizabethtown College teamed up with Lebanon Valley College to establish the Harrisburg Area College Center, which would provide College level classes in the afternoons and evenings for adults. The credits gained could be transferred to either Elizabethtown College or Lebanon Valley College. This center was so successful that Temple university, Penn state, and the University of Pennsylvania joined the program. A.C. Baugher was the Chairman of this board and the name as changed to the University Center at Harrisburg in 1966, with an average enrollment of 1500 by the end of the 1960s. President Baugher also attempted other outreach methods, such as television. Using WGAL-TV, a Lancaster news stations which ran a program that reached over 760,000 people known as *College on the Air*, President Baugher gave a televised lecture, "From Alchemy to Chemistry," on October 13, 1953. This would be one of many appearances from the Elizabethtown faculty on live television.⁵⁹

During the early 1950's, one of Elizabethtown College's favorite causes became the Japan International Christian University, with A.C. Baugher becoming one of the University's Trustees. In the spring of 1952, a Campus Community Chest was created at Elizabethtown College, and students were asked to make contributions themselves or solicit funds for three international aid foundations, one of which was the Japan International School. This was particularly brave of Baugher, as this was a time when international collaboration was seen as suspicious due to McCarthyism and communism on the rise.⁶⁰

A.C. Baugher had first stepped on Elizabethtown College's campus in 1914 when there were only two buildings, and the campus was filled with people in plain garb, and he was finally considering giving up some of his responsibility and burdens. Baugher sent a letter to the board of trustees announcing his resignation as president: After having been affiliated with Elizabethtown College for more than forty-five years as student, teacher, dean, trustee, and as President, I wish to officially inform the Board that I plan to retire from the office of President at the end of the next

⁵⁷ Ibid., 165.

⁵⁸ Ibid., 172.

⁵⁹ Ibid., 191.

⁶⁰ Ibid., 198.

academic year on June 30, 1961.”⁶¹ For his retirement Baugher requested he be designated President Emeritus and work in the area of development and fund raising; he would work only part-time and receive a salary commensurate with the time spent; and he would prepare a manuscript on the history of college with no commitment from the Board as to its publication. Baugher was praised for gaining accreditation for the College, greatly increasing financial support of the College (\$3555 in 1941 to \$43,275 in 1959), creating new facilities on campus, and the strengthening of academic prowess at Elizabethtown College. The campus had been expanded from fifty to seventy-five acres and the erection of four new major buildings. Forty-six years after walking up the steps of Alpha Hall and entering the doors, speaking the words “He can who thinks he can,” Charles Abba Baugher’s words were proven true as he successfully retired with various accomplishments at Elizabethtown College.⁶²

Although he retired as president, A.C. Baugher started making plans in the spring of 1962 to return to his role as a teacher, this time teaching chemistry at Messiah College. However, quite unfortunately, Charles Abba Baugher suffered a fatal heart attack on November 2, 1962, while working in his garden. Baugher was rushed to the Lancaster General Hospital but passed away while in the intensive care unit at sixty-nine years old. A.C. Baugher was a great man who lived a fulfilling life despite dying at age sixty-nine. In addition to the momentous progression he facilitated at Elizabethtown College, Baugher was active in the Church of the Brethren, he organized the Teachers for West Africa Program and served as its director, was the moderator of the 1957 Richmond Conference, and served many times on the standing committee of the Annual conference as a reading clerk and congressional delegate. Additionally, Baugher was a member of twenty-eight years on the General Brotherhood Board, a member of nineteen years on the board of trustees of Bethany Theological Seminary and was moderator of the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren from 1938 until his death. Lastly, Baugher was Chairman on the committee that would eventually publish *The History of the Church of the Brethren in Eastern Pennsylvania*.⁶³ An *Etownian* editorial was written in remembrance of Charles Abba Baugher: “We knew President Baugher as a man not isolated in his executive office, but rather as a college leader genuinely interested in and active among the students, in the welfare of the school, and in the general advancement of Elizabethtown... the Student Center is concrete evidence that Dr. Baugher wished, as College President, to provide for the entire interests of the student body. First envisioned in his mind, the Center became a reality to Dr. Baugher when he toured the building one day before his death.”⁶⁴ The student center was intended for students to enjoy extra-curricular activities and was dedicated on Sunday, November 18, with A.C. Baugher’s name written on the side. The building cost around \$1,400,000 and included within it a snack bar, bowling lanes, College bookstore, publication center, radio station, lounges, conference rooms, a post office, and a large swimming

⁶¹ Ibid., 206-207.

⁶² Ibid., 207.

⁶³ Ibid., 213.

⁶⁴ Ibid., 213-214.

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pool. At the dedication of the building, a portrait of A.C. Baugher was unveiled and placed in the lounge for all students to see.⁶⁵

Mark Ebersole married one of A.C. Baugher's daughters, Dorothy Baugher, and they had two sons. One of the sons was Philip, a history major at Dartmouth, and the second was Stephen, a business major at Indiana University.⁶⁶ Additionally, In Leffler Chapel for the centennial kickoff of April 17, 1999, Caroyln Black Sotir, professional singer and granddaughter of A.C. Baugher (Daughter of Louise Baugher Black), performed in Just a song at Twilight, which was a solo concert with turn of the century songs.⁶⁷

President and principals of Elizabethtown College: A.C. Baugher, President, 1941-61.⁶⁸

Mrs. Baugher information:

The final celebratory event of A.C. Baugher took form in the Alumni Day Honors Luncheon on May 27, 1961, and both A.C. Baugher and his wife were presented with Alumni chairs by the President of the Alumni Association, Clifford B. Huffman.⁶⁹

Information from the *First Three Centuries*:

Reverend "Aaron" C. Baugher, professor and later president of Elizabethtown College, was the elder-in-charge of the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren from 1939 until his death. Additionally, A.C. Baugher was a part time pastor. During the 1940s-1950s, Brethren congregations started having "moderators" rather than "elders in charge," and A.C. Baugher was the last elder-in-charge and the first moderator.⁷⁰

At the groundbreaking for Mill Road Elementary on April 1955, President A.C. Baugher of Elizabethtown College and three others spoke at the ceremony.⁷¹

Dr. A.C. Baugher held presidential leadership at Elizabethtown College from 1941-1961, with his influence reaching farther than just the College itself. Baugher went to Washington with the National Council Against Conscription to meet with Congressional leaders to give explanations against Universal Military Training. Additionally, as the chair of Pennsylvania Commission for Displaced Persons (DPs), Baugher helped refugees come to America and settle down, many of the families finding a new start within Elizabethtown. The last group of refugees from the DPs program arrived in April of 1952. Baugher also influenced international relations through the creation of the Teachers for West Africa Program. The program involved a partnership between the Hershey Chocolate Corporation and Elizabethtown College, with the goal of sending elementary and high school teachers to Ghana and Nigeria. At the time, the newly independent

⁶⁵ Ibid., 214.

⁶⁶ Ibid., 267.

⁶⁷ Ibid., 333.

⁶⁸ Ibid., 341.

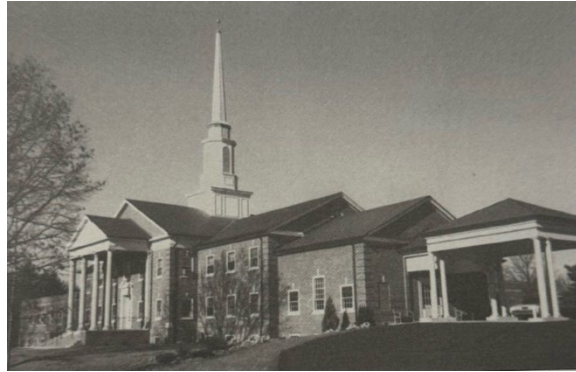
⁶⁹ Ralph Schlosser, *History of Elizabethtown College 1899 - 1970*. (Lebanon, PA: Sowers Printing Company, 1971), 222.

⁷⁰ Richard Kerwin MacMaster, *Elizabethtown: The First Three Centuries* (Morgantown, PA: Mastof Press, 1999), 235.

⁷¹ MacMaster, 243.

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countries had a shortage of teachers and the President of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah requested for 500 American teachers. President Baugher of Elizabethtown College was director of this program until his death in November of 1962.⁷²



In 1945 the congregation of Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren broke ground for a new church building on South Mount Joy Street. A.C. Baugher and four others participated in the ceremony.⁷³

“Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren on South Mount Joy Street, constructed in 1955.”

Find a grave information:

Find a Grave, database and images

(https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/124499022/charles_abba-baugher: accessed June 4, 2024), memorial page for Charles Abba Baugher (8 Sep 1893–2 Nov 1962), Find a Grave Memorial ID 124499022, citing Mount Tunnel Cemetery, Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, USA; Maintained by Catherine Cramer (contributor 47339001).

Charles Abba Baugher

BIRTH: 8 Sep 1893

DEATH: 2 Nov 1962 (aged 69) Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, USA

BURIAL: Mount Tunnel Cemetery Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, USA

MEMORIAL ID: 124499022

Bio on Find a Grave: “Former professor and president of Elizabethtown College, in Elizabethtown, PA. He served as President from 1941 - 1961. At the time of his death he was moderator of the Church of the Brethren (think the word is a typo for "Brethren") Dr. Baugher's name shows in history books on Elizabethtown College as both Abba Charles and Charles Abba, as well as just the initials A. C. His grave stone reads "A. Charles".



⁷² Ibid., 249.; Benowitz et al., 45.

⁷³ Ibid., 260.

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Spouse: Ella B Baugher 1898–1987

Children: Louise B Baugher Black 1925–2014 & Kathleen Baugher Bryer 1928–1992

Ella B Baugher Information:

Find a Grave, database and images (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/134758678/ella_b-baugher: accessed June 4, 2024), memorial page for Ella B Baugher (20 Sep 1898–21 Apr 1987), Find a Grave Memorial ID 134758678, citing Mount Tunnel Cemetery, Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, USA; Maintained by Lee Winters III (contributor 48049412).

BIRTH: 20 Sep 1898

DEATH: 21 Apr 1987 (aged 88) Neffsville, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, USA

BURIAL: Mount Tunnel Cemetery Elizabethtown, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, USAAdd to
MEMORIAL ID: 134758678

Spouse: Charles Abba Baugher 1893–1962

Children: Louise B Baugher Black 1925–2014 & Kathleen Baugher Bryer 1928–1992

“Patriot-News, The (Harrisburg, PA) - Wednesday, April 22, 1987

Ella B. Baugher, 88, of the Brethren Village, Neffsville, died Tuesday in the village.

She was the widow of Dr. A. C. Baugher, president and dean of Elizabethtown College, and was active in many college organizations.

She was a former school teacher in Harleysville, Montgomery County; a board member and director of children's work and mother and daughter programs for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Church of the Brethren; a Sunday school teacher for 50 years; a public speaker for civic and church groups; and a member of the Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren and the Lancaster Church of the Brethren, the Elizabethtown College auxiliary, Elizabethtown College Women's Club, Elizabethtown College President's Club, Elizabethtown Rotary Ann Club, the Business and Professional Women's Club of Elizabethtown, and the Clisophic Society of Lancaster.

Surviving are three daughters, Dorothy Ebersole of Lancaster, Louise Black of Elizabethtown and Kathleen Bryer of Gap; two sisters, Edna Gottshall of Lancaster and Dorothy Minnich of York; a brother, Charles Booz of York; 12 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 3: 30 p.m. Saturday in the Lancaster Church of the Brethren with the Rev. Dr. Floyd E. Bantz, her pastor, and the Rev. Dr. Nevin H. Zuck officiating. Burial will be in Mount Tunnel Cemetery, Elizabethtown.”

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